

I commend Harcum College for its accomplishments and commitment to education. Harcum has faced many challenges over the years, and I congratulate the institution as it remains an outstanding educational facility.●

#### 2000 NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPALS AWARD

● Mr. MURKOWSKI. Mr. President, I would like to take a moment to congratulate an exceptional elementary school principal, Mr. Karl Schleich of Wasilla, Alaska. He is the 2000 recipient of the National Distinguished Principals Award for Alaska.

The National Distinguished Principals Program (NDP) was established in 1984 as an annual event to honor elementary and middle school principals who set the pace, character, and quality of the education children receive during their early school years. The program is jointly sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education and the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). It calls attention to the fundamental importance of the school principal in achieving educational excellence for pre-kindergarten through eighth grade students.

Mr. Schleich's reputation for getting things done was established in southeast Alaska when, in his first position as an educational leader, he oversaw the creation of a grade 6-8 middle school in a former grade 7-12 building and then founded a regional association to support others making similar transitions. As an assistant principal, he helped model a middle school program that received statewide and national attention. In his role as principal at Snowshoe Elementary School, he has boosted school improvement efforts, developed and trained staff in schoolwide assessments of writing, reading comprehension, and early literacy skills, as well as portfolios of children's work. Karl Schleich is commended by his colleagues for his uncommon interpersonal skills and energy that he has demonstrated in his 12 years as a principal.

Our Nation's future depends on today's educators. Currently, 40 percent of America's 4th graders read below the basic level on national reading tests. On international tests, the nation's 12th graders rank last in Advanced Physics compared with students in 18 other countries. And one-third of all incoming college freshmen must enroll in a remedial reading, writing, or mathematics class before taking regular courses. This country is in need of more devoted and talented educators. I commend Mr. Schleich for his hard work and dedication to our children. He is educating those who will lead this country in creating, developing, and putting to work new ideas and technology.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN JOSEPH E. BAGGETT

● Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize and honor Captain Joseph E. Baggett, Judge Advocate General's Corps, United States Navy, upon his retirement after twenty-nine years of devoted, active duty service in our great nation's Navy.

Captain Baggett was born into a military family. The son of a career enlisted Marine, Captain Baggett grew up in the presence of the United States Navy in such diverse locations as Naval Air Station Pensacola, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, and the United Kingdom. Raised with the values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment, and with a family tradition of service, it only made sense that he too would pursue a military career.

Captain Baggett graduated Phi Beta Kappa from Tulane University in May 1971, and entered the Navy through Tulane's Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps. At that time Captain Baggett raised his hand and took his oath to support and defend the Constitution. In the years since that day he has devoted indeed all of his great energy, talent, and intellect to that task. He has been steadfast in his covenant to this nation and his devotion to those with whom he has served. An illustrious career gives eloquent testimony to his service to our country and to our Navy's legal community.

After two tours as a Supply Corps officer, including service onboard USS *Rich* (DD-820), he entered the Navy's Law Education Program and commenced the study of law at Tulane University. After earning his Juris Doctor degree in 1977, his first tour of duty as a Navy Judge Advocate was at Naval Legal Service Office, Jacksonville, Florida where he served as a formidable military prosecutor tirelessly pursuing justice on behalf of the Navy.

Captain Baggett's subsequent tours demonstrate his exceptional talent for international and operational law, his unsurpassed academic credentials, and his desire to serve the Fleet wherever required. In such diverse assignments as Commander Middle East Force onboard USS *LaSalle* (AGF-3) and USS *Coronado* (AGF-11), Commander Iceland Defense Force, and Commander Sixth Fleet, serving onboard USS *Belknap* (CG-26) and USS *Iowa* (BB-61), Captain Baggett's legal acumen and diplomatic skill repeatedly helped safeguard America's Interests and project America's presence in these often complex areas of the world. Interspersed were tours in Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs, the International Law Division of the Office of the Judge Advocate General, and the University of Miami where he earned a Masters of Law degree in Ocean and Coastal Law.

With his vast experience with forward-deployed, operational forces, Captain Baggett was able to quickly contribute to a number of vital, National-level issues in subsequent Washington staff assignments, including tours on

the Joint Staff's Strategic Plans and Policy Directorate, as Deputy Assistant Judge Advocate General for International Law, and as the Defense Department Representative for Ocean Policy, where he was pivotal in developing United States policy on a variety of issues, including issues involving the newly formed Russian Federation. With this comprehensive top-level, international legal perspective, Captain Baggett was the obvious choice to become the Counsel for National Security to the Deputy Attorney General of the United States.

Returning to the Fleet as the Senior Staff Judge Advocate for the Commander in Chief, U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Captain Baggett was a major influence in high-level decisionmaking related to all aspects of Fleet operations, including environmental coordination and enforcement, rules of engagement, medical law, military justice, and the legal aspects of shore activity management. Captain Baggett's subsequent tour as the Commanding Officer of the Navy's flagship Naval Legal Service Office, in Norfolk, Virginia, demonstrated once again his exceptional leadership skills. Here he mentored the young men and women of the Navy's legal community about the operational imperatives of the Navy, and constantly stressed the paramount need to serve the Fleet.

Captain Baggett's wealth of expertise of Navy won him the assignment as Director of the Legislation Division in the Navy's Office of Legislative Affairs. In this capacity his consistent sound judgment and flawless tact ensured Navy issues were properly conveyed to Senate Committees and Subcommittees.

Standing beside this officer throughout his career has been his wife Suzanne, a lady to whom he owes much. She has been his key supporter, devoting her life to her husband, to their two sons, Merritt and Graham, and to the men and women of the Navy family. She has traveled by his side for these many years. Her sacrifice and devotion have served as an example and inspiration for others.

With these words before the Senate, I seek to recognize Captain Baggett for his unswerving loyalty to the Navy and the Nation. The Department of the Navy and the American people have been served well by this dedicated naval officer. He will be missed. He has left the Navy better prepared to face the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century. We thank him and wish Joe, and his lovely wife Suzanne, fair winds and following seas as they continue forward in what will most assuredly remain lives of service to this Great Nation.●

#### EDWIN J. KUNTZ

● Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I rise today to announce the passing of an outstanding leader in the agriculture community of Montana. I first met Ed